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Thirty-seventh session
9 June-3 July 1997
Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Mrs. Sharon BRENNEN-HAYLOCK (Bahamas)

Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 (item 4 (a))

Section 14. Crime control

1. At its 16th meeting, on 20 June 1997, the Committee considered section 14, Crime control, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Discussion

2. Many delegations expressed their support for the programme and felt that the share of resources provided for it in the biennium 1998-1999 did not reflect its importance and the priority given to it by the General Assembly in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

3. Many delegations expressed their concern that the resources, both within the regular budget and extrabudgetary, were insufficient in particular in the areas of transnational crime and technical assistance to developing countries. Many delegations noted the need for increased assistance to countries or regions that were particularly affected by serious crime, including the consequences of drug trafficking.

4. Several delegations noted with great concern that the programme of work did not include activities related to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations although that issue had been considered as a priority in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. Some delegations stressed the

importance of maintaining close cooperation with other institutions and agencies and in particular with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme not only in connection with control of money laundering and the proceeds of crime, but also in the areas of transnational crime, drug trafficking and international terrorism. Some delegations referred to the importance of maintaining the principle of equitable geographical representation in the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division.

5. Some delegations proposed including the following text under conclusions and recommendations: "The Committee requested that the programme of work of this section during the biennium 1998-1999 include some activities that could strengthen international cooperation and improve the response of Member States to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations".

6. Some delegations proposed the following modifications to the text of section 14:

(a) Paragraph 14.2 (b) (ii) should read:

"Support the strengthening of the capacity of Governments, at their request, to improve their legislation and criminal justice system";

(b) In paragraph 14.2 (c) (ii), the words "transnational crime in all its forms" should be replaced by the words "transnational crime, particularly in its most serious forms";

(c) In paragraph 14.2 (c) (iii), after the word "terrorism", the words "in all its forms and manifestations" should be added;

(d) Paragraph 14.2 (c) (iii), should be replaced by paragraph 12.3 (c) of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 14, Crime control, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 14.2 (b) (ii) should read:

"Support the strengthening of the capacity of Governments, at their request, to improve their legislation and criminal justice system";

(b) Paragraph 14.2 (c) (iii) should read:

"Elaborating and assisting Member States in the implementation of effective strategies and practical arrangements for consistent and efficient cooperation against major forms of criminality, such as organized transnational crime, including drug trafficking, corruption, terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, smuggling of illegal migrants, trafficking in women and children, environmental offences, the laundering

of the proceeds of crime, fraudulent operations and other forms of economic crime."

8. The Committee also recommended that the programme of work of the section during the biennium 1998-1999 include some activities that could strengthen international cooperation and improve the response of Member States in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as other forms of transnational crime, in accordance with paragraph 12.3 (c) of the medium-term plan, and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

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Rapporteur: Mrs. Sharon BRENNEN-HAYLOCK (Bahamas)

Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 (item 4 (a))

Section 15. International drug control

1. At its 16th meeting, on 20 June 1997, the Committee considered section 15, International drug control, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Discussion

2. Many delegations expressed their support for the programme and noted the priority attached to it in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

3. Many delegations stressed the importance of the role of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in providing leadership to agencies in the United Nations system for the further development of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its regional subsidiary bodies, and that of the International Narcotics Control Board. A number of delegations considered that the activities of the International Narcotics Control Board and of the meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies should be strengthened.

4. Some delegations emphasized the transnational nature of the drug control problem. Several delegations also emphasized the importance of coordination with the crime control programme, in particular as regards money laundering.

5. A number of delegations expressed concern that the budget proposals contained no reference to the problems of transit countries; others noted the absence of reference to consumers and the absence of activities related to the issue of demand reduction. The Secretariat indicated that activities related to demand reduction and to the problems of transit States were included under subprogramme 3, Prevention and reduction of drug abuse, elimination of illicit crops and suppression of illicit drug trafficking. Activities related to illicit drug trafficking were intended to cover trafficking from the point of origin of drugs to the point of consumption. Examples of activities funded by the Fund for the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to assist transit States were provided, including in particular the establishment of field offices in the Caribbean and Central Asian regions. It was reiterated that the Programme would continue to implement activities to assist transit States. One delegation referred to supplies by some industrialized countries of technologies and reagents (reactives) used by drug producers. Another delegation stressed the importance of activities related to alternative development.

6. Some delegations expressed strong support for the special session of the General Assembly on international drug control to be held in 1998 and expressed concern at the lack of importance given to the question in the budget section. Some stressed the need to ensure the availability of financial resources for activities in preparation for the special session and for the implementation of the activities to be carried out as a result of the outcome of the special session.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 15, International drug control, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, subject to further consideration as stated in paragraph 35 of the introduction and with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 15.8, the words "and help to set the agenda for international drug control for the following decade" should be deleted;

(b) After paragraph 15.8, the following paragraph should be added:

"The Programme will provide services to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the preparatory body of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the combat against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, to be held in June 1998";

(c) After old paragraph 15.12, the following paragraph should be added:

"Five days at the 1998 session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will be devoted to the preparation of the special session of the General Assembly

devoted to the combat against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities";

(d) In old paragraph 15.18 (a) (i), the words "Prepare for and participate in the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council" should be deleted and the words "on drug control" should be replaced by the words "devoted to the combat against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities";

(e) In old paragraph 15.18 (a) (ii), a new subparagraph should be added to read: "c. Pertinent documents for the preparatory process of the special session of the General Assembly";

(f) After old paragraph 15.18 (c), a new subparagraph (d) should be added to read: "The Programme will compile the recommendations presented to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by organs, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations, as well as by multilateral development banks, as the preparatory body of the special session on the issues to be addressed by the special session";

(g) In old paragraph 15.28 (a) (ii) a, the words "documentation for the preparatory process of the special session" should be added;

(h) In old paragraph 15.28 (b) (iii), the words "public relations material to promote the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the combat against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities" should be added;

(i) In old paragraph 15.36, the full name of the special session of the General Assembly should be inserted;

(j) In old paragraph 15.37 (a) (ii), between a and b, the following should be inserted: "Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the preparatory body of the special session devoted to the combat against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, containing the recommendations for the special session";

(k) In old paragraph 15.37 (a) (ii) c, the word "and" before the word "four" should be deleted and the following words should be added at the end of the paragraph: "and documents on possible results of the special session of the General Assembly, in particular with possible measures to strengthen the implementation of the international drug conventions";

(l) In old paragraph 15.42, after the words "will focus" the following words should be added: "in 1998, on the preparation of a draft of a declaration of the United Nations on the principles for the reduction of the demand, which could be approved at the special session of the General Assembly in June 1998. Furthermore, activities will focus".

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Rapporteur: Mrs. Sharon BRENNEN-HAYLOCK (Bahamas)

Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 (item 4 (a))

Section 16. Economic and social development in Africa

1. At its 19th meeting, on 24 June 1997, the Committee considered section 16, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Discussion

2. Many delegations expressed support for the programme of work in this section, which was one of the priority areas of the Organization. They also welcomed the reform process carried out by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). A number of delegations encouraged the secretariat of the Economic Commission to continue in its pursuit of professional and managerial excellence.

3. Several delegations expressed satisfaction at the efforts made to refocus the programme of activities on fewer core issues. Some delegations felt that the programme of work did not give adequate treatment to the core issues of trade and finance, industry, transport and communication, and agriculture in their entirety. It was explained that while these issues did not in themselves constitute separate subprogrammes, they were major areas of focus in the programme of work under various subprogrammes.

4. Some delegations welcomed the proposed reduction of posts under executive direction and management and programme support and the growth reflected under the substantive programme of work. A number of delegations noted that the Commission had become more streamlined. They felt, however, that the resource base was still too low and needed to be increased significantly. They also felt that technological innovation and decentralization through the new subregional development centres, and the training of staff should be expanded to further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Commission.

5. Some delegations encouraged the efforts being made to mobilize more extrabudgetary resources to complement regular budget resources, which were not commensurate with the development needs of the region and the challenges facing the Commission. They referred to resolution 830 (XXXII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers requesting the Secretary-General, and also inviting the General Assembly, to allocate sufficient resources to the Commission in order for it to implement its programme of work. To this end, they stressed that the priority accorded to African recovery, which has been reiterated on many occasions by the Secretary-General, should be reflected in the allocation of resources.

6. One delegation was of the view that no resource growth should have been proposed under this section following the outcome of the reform currently under way, and that the contributions to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and the United Nations Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) should be discontinued. Some other delegations stressed that IDEP and UNAFRI were statutorily linked to the Commission and that the contributions supported core and essential functions at these institutions. They further felt that those functions should be supported under the regular budget.

7. Some delegations reiterated the importance of better coordination at the field level between the Commission and the relevant United Nations specialized agencies operating in Africa, and of full respect for the delineation of their responsibilities.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 16, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, subject to further consideration as stated in paragraph 35 of the introduction.